Opening from the hall is the lost-luggage office, and access to other departments,—all more or less connected with the passengers. A very necessary part of the arrangement of such a building is the clear division of the passengers from the transfer and other business of the company; and, in this case, such a separation is effected by means principally of the great hall. Immediately opposite the entrance of the hall will be placed the electric-telegraph office, easy of access alike to the public and the officers of the company.

In the four angles of the building there are four staircases leading to the secretary's, transfer, engineers', and other offices, committee-rooms, board-room, and the various branch railway offices.

Annexed we give a view of the public hall, an apartment of large proportions and striking effect, and we will now speak a little more in detail of that and the other parts of the new building. The length of this vestibule is 125 feet 6 inches, the width 61 feet 4 inches, and the height 60 feet;—or as nearly as may be two cubes. It will be seen that the ceiling is panelled, deeply recessed, with all the members fully enriched. It is connected with the walls by large ornamented consoles of bold design. The walls, which are rendered with grey Martin's cement, are splashed as granite, and the Ionic columns, seen in the view, and attached to the wall at the other end of the room, are painted like red granite, with white caps and bases.*

A bold flight of steps at the end of the hall leads to the vestibule of the general meeting-room, and the board-room, and forms a striking and original feature. The door of the general meeting-room, seen at the top of the stairs, is surmounted by a group of sculpture, ably executed by Mr. John Thomas. It represents Britannia, with Mercury on one side, and Science on the other. The light comes down on this group very effectively. In the angles of the great hall, immediately under the ceiling, are eight panels in *alto relievo*, by the same sculptor. These represent by symbolical figures London, Birmingham, Manchester, Chester, Northampton, Carlisle, Nottinghamshire, and Liverpool.

There is a gallery all round the hall; the area is paved with Craigleith stone (a good specimen), and it is heated by hot-water pipes on Perkins's system. Some of the panels in the ceiling are perforated; and behind these are disposed other coils of hot-water pipes to promote ventilation. The same arrangement is made in the general meeting-room; and in the whole there are some miles in length of these pipes.

Of the general meeting-room we shall give an illustration hereafter. It is a handsome apartment, 75 feet long, 45 feet wide, and 40 feet high, calculated to accomodate 400 persons. Around the wall are coupled Doric columns on a podium. The coved and panelled ceiling is cleverly managed. There are windows on one side of this room, and lights in the cove of the ceiling on both sides.

The board-room, adjoining the last, is wholly of wainscot, with the exception of the ceiling, and has Corinthian columns of the same material. The size of it is 34 feet 6 inches, by 27 feet 2 inches. Two large rollers with connecting straps, have been fitted up here for a remarkable map of all the railways which belongs to the Board. The ceiling is coved, and has one rectangular panel, formed by flowers and fruits, subdivided into three.

The booking-offices, are, one 56 feet by 39 feet 10 inches; the other, 60 feet by 40 feet 6 inches, and have each a domical skylight of cast-iron, 28 feet in diameter. The pendentives of the ceiling are received on double consoles, which have the head and body of a lion between them and the pendentives. There is a gallery all round each office.

In the rooms on the second floor are some offices for branch lines, and a number of rooms to be occupied in a short time for similar purposes. In the basement are numerous store and other rooms, most of which are in use.

The whole of these works have been executed from the designs of Mr. P. C. Hardwick, to whom they are highly creditable. Messrs. W. Cubitt and Co. were the contractors. The total amount expended is not yet arrived at, but will probably not be less than 125,000*l.*!

* These columns are of brick, with iron stanchions running through them. An accident which happened to these columns during their first erection, and led to an inquiry, fully reported in our pages at the time, will be remembered by many of our readers.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Mr. Petrie's ingenious mode of protecting premises by the aid of electric shocks, as first suggested in The Builder, is about to be applied, it appears, to an extensive factory at West Ham. The battery will be a very powerful one, and will effect the two-fold object of ringing a large alarm bell, and prostrating all who may attempt to enter the premises. The application of such an apparatus is suitable for banking houses or the mansions of the nobility and gentry as well, and may be applied to one room or the whole dwelling.——The repair of Salisbury Cathedral spire has been resumed. ——A recent report of the boring at Northam for the Southampton Artesian well states the depth arrived at to be 286 ft., and that the workmen could not bore any further with safety till they had iron piping to the depth of 290 feet, and the present depth of the bore was 296 feet in hard clay.——Some further improvements are now being carried out at Southsea in the drainage and planting of 100 acres of ground, called Webb's marshes. A number of villas are to be afterwards erected on the site.——The old mansion named Bourne-park House, near Bridge, in Kent, is at present undergoing a thorough restoration, under the superintendance of Mr. J. Shaw, architect, and by Messrs. Locke and Nesham, builders. The building had been very much decayed, and almost uninhabitable. The ceilings, carvings, &c., have been renewed, a stone portico added to the doorway, the basement lowered and vaults constructed, the exterior tuck-pointed with stone dressings, and the grounds laid out with artificial water, garden, and other arrangements. —— St. Margaret's Church, Whalley Range, in the parish of Manchester, was consecrated on the 29th ult. It is geometrical in style (the transition from Early English to Decorated), has a tower and broach spire, and was built from the designs of Mr. James P. Harrison.——The rational mode of self-employment by some of our surplus hands, in the production of a subsistence for themselves out of the bounties of nature in spade cultivation, is being carried out at Huddersfield, where 75 workmen have lately formed an association, and purchased an eight-acre field for this purpose. Whenever any of the members are out of employment they will receive a ticket for six days' work, or twelve days' work, and be paid a fair day's wages for a fair day's work, and thus be prevented from becoming burdensome to the town, and having pauper relief. There are two such societies in the town already: this is the third. There is now hardly a village within 7 miles of Huddersfield, says the *Leeds Intelligencer*, but has its allotment society or industrial farms.——A meeting was to be held at Gainsborough last week, to prepare the way for the erection of a corn exchange.——The construction of the first of two extensive sheds on the sides of the Humber Dock Basin has been commenced by the Dock Company. Each is to be 150 feet long and 40 feet wide. Fourteen cast-iron pillars, embedded in solid masonry, and rising about 12 feet, are to support each of the sheds.——"Mr. John Pearson, the contractor for the execution of the great sewer in the High-street of this borough," says the *Gateshead Observer*, "made a beginning of the work on Wednesday, on the site of the departed tolbooth, nearly opposite the departed almshouses of the late Mr. Powell. The excavations have laid bare the foundations of the old prison, which stood in the middle of the street, and appears to have commenced in a line with the south end of the almshouses. The contractor has also had the luck to hit upon the 'high main' seam of coal; and this, we presume, he may appropriate as a perquisite, and vend under the name of 'Pearson's Wallsend' [or what says our cotemporary to 'Pearson's Godsend?'] At the foot of West-street, Messrs. Wilson and Gibson are about to begin the erection of the new railway bridge across Slant-street (which, we hear, has been rechristened by the less expressive name of 'Hills-street.') Thus, both underground and aboveground, the work of improvement goes on in our ancient borough."—— Public attention in Sunderland being directed to the establishment of public baths and washhouses, we, says the *Sunderland Herald*, give publicity to the following results of the institution in Newcastle:—During the two last months, 1,200 warm baths have been taken, showing (if the average be taken individually) that one in every 84 of the entire population of Newcastle and Gateshead has had a warm bath within the last two months. The average weekly number of houses occupied by those who got their clothes washed, dried, and ironed, in a very few hours, during the same period, amounts to 4,300. The receipts amounted to 28*l.* 15*s.*; and if March and April could fairly be taken as average months, the annual receipts in that case would be 172*l.* 10*s.* It is confidently asserted that the baths will be self-supporting this year, and yield a profit afterwards.

IMPROVEMENT OF POOLE, DORSETSHIRE.

Our attention has been lately called to a port on the south coast of England, possessing great capabilities, and although long used by merchants trading to the North American colonies, nevertheless not so extensively known as from its position and convenience it deserves. We allude to the port of Poole, in Dorsetshire. The harbour is an extensive estuary of about 60 miles in circumference, the quays are large, with the advantage that vessels lie afloat at all times of the tide. The dues are nominal; the neighbourhood abounds in clay and stone, the former forming the chief ingredient used in the Staffordshire Potteries, and supplying London with the entire material used in the numerous potteries springing up in that locality. On the completion of the Wilts and Somerset Railway, a direct opening will be effected through the port of Poole, between the English and British channels, a convenience desiderated for the last half century, and first recommended by the late Sir Thomas Telford.

We hear that potteries on an extensive scale are contemplated on the estates of Sir J. J. Guest, Bart., in the neighbourhood. Lord Eldon is also outlaying a large sum of money within the harbour, principally for the purpose of bringing the most valuable of the Purbeck stone from the surrounding hills. It certainly appears strange that efforts have not been sooner made to develope the resources of this country, it can only be accounted for from the want of enterprise in the county of Dorset. It is said that Sir J. Guest has lately become the possessor of the greater part of the country near the port, and if so it may be prophesied that its resources will very soon be developed.

THE CHELTENHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.

This building, lately erected in Sandford-fields, Cheltenham, by Mr. Darby, builder, from plans prepared by Mr. D. J. Humphris, architect, and recently opened to patients, has an entrance front on the ground-floor, beneath a portico supported by four fluted Ionic columns, and approached by nine steps. The entrance hall is 24 feet 10 inches by 16 feet. It is separated from the corridor by two pillars. Branching off from the hall are various official apartments, and in each wing there is a ward 42 feet by 21 feet 6 inches, and 14 feet high. There is a museum 33 feet by 21 feet 6 inches in the front of the east wing. The basement story contains kitchens and other offices. On the next floor above the ground range there are also two wards, with a bath room, matron's and other apartments, and in each of the front wings is another ward. At the back of the centre is an extra floor (contrived by reducing the height of the rooms beneath), containing an operating room 24 feet 10 inches by 16 feet 4 inches, a room 20 feet by 11 feet 6 inches, and other apartments, with hot and cold water cisterns. The whole of the rooms are supplied with gas and hot and cold water. There is a corridor on each floor extending the entire length of the building, and 9 feet in width. Around the building is an area of two acres in garden ground.

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